What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating a fabrication facility comprising:

providing a fabrication facility having a total available production capacity for producing at least one product;

allocating from the total available production capacity for producing the at least one product a first capacity for producing at least one specified product;

auctioning, while employing an auction method, the first capacity for producing the at least one specified product to a pool of bidders comprising at least one bidder;

determining from the pool of bidders comprising the at least one bidder at least one winning bidder; and

fabricating, for the at least one winning bidder, a quantity of the at least one specified product from the manufacturing facility while employing the first capacity for producing the at least one specified product.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one product is selected from the group consisting of mechanical products, electrical products, chemical products and electro-mechanical products.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one product is a microelectronic product selected from the group consisting of integrated circuit microelectronic fabrications, ceramic substrate microelectronic fabrications, solar cell optoelectronic microelectronic fabrications, sensor image array optoelectronic microelectronic fabrications and display image array optoelectronic microelectronic fabrications.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the first capacity for producing the at least one specified product is equal to the total available capacity for producing the at least one product.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the first capacity for producing the at least one specified product is less than the total available capacity for producing the at least one product.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the auction is selected from the group consisting of English auctions, Dutch auctions, reserve auctions, non-reserve auctions, sealed bid auctions and Vickrey auctions.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the first capacity for producing at least one specified product is less than the total available capacity for producing the at least one product; and

5   a winning auction price determined from the at least one winning bidder is employed for establishing a pricing of a non-auction capacity within the total available capacity for producing the at least one product.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the auction is undertaken employing as a moderator tool a distributed communications network.

9. A system for operating a fabrication facility comprising:

means for allocating within a fabrication facility, from a total available production capacity for producing at least one product within the fabrication facility, a first capacity for producing at least one specified product within the fabrication facility;

means for auctioning, while employing an auction method, the first capacity for producing the at least one specified product to a pool of bidders comprising at least one bidder;

20   means for determining from the pool of bidders comprising the at least one bidder at least one winning bidder; and

means for effecting fabrication, for the at least one winning bidder, of a quantity of the at least one specified product from the manufacturing facility while employing the first capacity for producing the at least one specified product.

5   10.   The system of claim 9 wherein the at least one product is selected from the group consisting of mechanical products, electrical products, chemical products and electro-mechanical products.

10   11.   The system of claim 9 wherein the at least one product is a microelectronic product selected from the group consisting of integrated circuit microelectronic fabrications, ceramic substrate microelectronic fabrications, solar cell optoelectronic microelectronic fabrications, sensor image array optoelectronic microelectronic fabrications and display image array optoelectronic
15   microelectronic fabrications.

12.   The system of claim 9 wherein the first capacity for producing the at least one specified product is equal to the total available capacity for producing the at least one product.

13.   The system of claim 9 wherein the first capacity for producing
20   the at least one specified product is less than the total available capacity for producing the at least one product.

14. The system of claim 9 wherein the auction is selected from the group consisting of English auctions, Dutch auctions, reserve auctions, non-reserve auctions, sealed bid auctions and Vickrey auctions.

5   15. The system of claim 9 wherein:

the first capacity for producing the at least one specified product is less than the total available capacity for producing the at least one product; and

10   a winning auction price determined from the at least one winning bidder is employed for establishing a pricing of a non-auction capacity within the total available capacity for producing the at least one product.

16. The system of claim 9 wherein the auction is undertaken employing as a moderator tool a distributed communications network.